

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is provided to change the format of claims to conform to U.S. practice. The amendments made to the claims are not made for purposes relating to patentability, and are not made in response to prior art or any objections or rejections to the claims. Thus, the Applicant has not intended to narrow, nor has the Applicant narrowed, the scope of any of the claims resulting from the international application by way of this preliminary amendment.

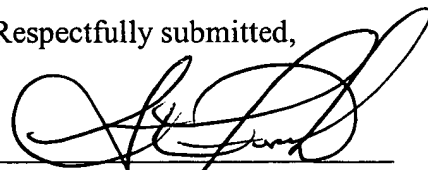
The preliminary amendment is also provided to amend FIG. 3 to include the "BILLING" unit 330. The billing unit 330 is referenced in the Specification as originally filed, and the amendment to FIG. 3 does not, therefore, constitute new matter. A replacement drawing sheet for FIG. 3 (on drawing sheet 2/4) is provided in its final form. No annotated (i.e., marked-up) sheet showing such changes is provided, as this is optional under the IFW Final Rule unless requested by the Examiner.

The Applicant respectfully requests that this preliminary amendment be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified national stage patent application.

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at 651-686-6633 (ext. 110) to discuss any issues related to this case.

Date: October 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven R. Funk', written over a horizontal line.

Steven R. Funk
Reg. No. 37,830